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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Agenda items 33, 35 and 85
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 26 September 1996 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Following my last two letters to you, dated 24 and 25 September 1996 (A/51/400-S/1996/779 and A/51/407-S/1996/786), I must inform you that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, has worsened and become even more dangerous.

The Israeli army escalated its attacks on Palestinian civilians, causing great casualties. While the casualties continue to increase by the hour, at this stage they stand at more than 24 killed and more than 500 injured. The Israeli army has also engaged Palestinian police personnel in exchange of fire, which has resulted in a situation of even greater danger.

We believe that the Security Council cannot stand by and watch such extreme deterioration of the situation, as well as the faltering of the peace process, as a result of Israeli policies and actions. Accordingly, I am requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation and to take the necessary actions in this regard, especially actions to achieve the closure of the tunnel under the Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as actions to restore hope and peace in the area.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 35 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations